

## Claims

*What is claimed is:*

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1. A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements for an adult pet and further comprising a sufficient amount of an antioxidant or mixture thereof, to inhibit the onset of deterioration of the mental capacity of said companion pet in aged years.
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2. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pet is a canine.
3. The diet in accordance with claim 2 wherein the canine is 1 to 6 years.
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4. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pet is a feline.
5. The diet in accordance with claim 4 wherein the feline is 1 to 6 years.
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6. The diet in accordance with claim 1 wherein Vitamin E is present in at least about 100 ppm of the diet.
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7. The diet in accordance with claim 6 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixture thereof is present in the diet.
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8. The diet of claim 1 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixtures thereof is present in the diet.

9. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C are in the diet.

10. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid are in the diet.

11. The diet of claim 8 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine are present in the diet.

12. A method for inhibiting the onset of deterioration of the mental capacity of an aged companion pet which comprises feeding said pet in its adult years a sufficient amount of an antioxidant or mixture thereof, to accomplish this inhibition.

13. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the pet is a canine.

14. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the canine is 1 to 6 years.

15. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the pet is a feline.

16. The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the feline is at least 1 to 6 years.

17. The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein Vitamin E is fed to the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by the diet.

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18. The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixture thereof is fed to the pet.

5 19. The method of claim 12 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixtures thereof is fed to the pet.

10 20. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C are in the diet.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid are in the diet.

15 22. The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine are present in the diet.

20 23. A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements of an adult pet and further comprising at least about 100 ppm of Vitamin E, at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C, at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid and at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine in the diet.

25 24. The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the adult pet is a canine of 1 to 6 years.

25 25. The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the adult pet is a feline of 1 to 6 years.

30 26. A method for increasing the mental capacity of an adult companion pet, which comprises feeding the pet an amount of

an antioxidant or mixture thereof sufficient to increase the mental capacity of said pet.

27. A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements of an adult pet and further comprising an amount of an antioxidant or mixture thereof sufficient to increase the mental capacity of said pet.

28. A method for improving a companion pet's ability in its aged years to resist oxidative damage which comprises feeding said pet in its adult years a diet meeting nutritional requirement, said diet having at least about 25 ppm lipoic acid and said diet being fed for at least one month.

29. A method for improving a companion pet's ability in its aged year to resist oxidative damage which comprises feeding said pet in its aged year a diet meeting nutritional requirement, said diet having at least about 25 ppm lipoic acid and said diet being fed for at least one month.